

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-07

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LIMA FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, BL

SUBJ: GEPLACEA MEETING JULY 5-9, BOLIVIAN PARTICIPATION

REF: STATE 165902

1. BOTH DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BOLIVIAN SUGAR INSTITUTE (CNECA), MSSRS. JUAN MCLEAN AND DR. TAPIA, ARE ATTENDING PANAMA MEETING OF GEPLACEA (GROUP OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SUGAR EXPORTING COUNTRIES). EMBASSY CONTACTED THIRD ENECA OFFICIAL, LIC. ALDUNATE. ALDUNHZE STATED MAJOR PURPOSE OF MEETING IS ACHIEVE COMMON POSITION AMONG GEPLACEA MEMBERS TO BE TAKEN AT NEXT MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL SUGAR COUNCIL IN GENEVA. MAJOR THRUST OF POSITION WILL BE DEFENSE OF STABLE, REASONABLE INTERNATIONAL PRICE FOR SUGAR. MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGES AMONG MEMBERS AND INFORMATION EXCHANGES ON COMMERCIALIZATION TECHNIQUES.

2. REGARDING INTERNATIONAL PRICE OF SUGAR, GEPLACEA MEMBERS ATTEMPTING TO ASCERTAIN REASONABLE PRICE IN RELATION TO COST OF PRODUCTION. PURPOSE IS TO PREVENT SPECULATIVE PRICING. BOLIVIA IS IN A RATHER DIFFICULT POSITION AS RELATIVELY HIGH COST PRODUCER

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BUT ALDUNATE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT GROUP WILL BE

ABLE TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS. HE POINTED OUT THAT
WITH PHILIPPINES AS OBSERVER, GEPLACEA ACCOUNTS FOR
MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF WORLD SUGAR PRODUCTION. BOLIVIA
SUGAR PRODUCTION OUTLOOK FOR 1976 IS VERY FAVORABLE,
AND APPROXIMATELY 60 PERCENT WILL BE EXPORTED. SUGAR'S
GROWING IMPORTANCE AS AN EXPORT CROP IS A MAJOR REASON
FOR BOLIVIA'S SUPPORT FOR AND PARTICIPATION IN
GEPLACEA ACTIVITIES.

3. BOLIVIA AND GEPLACEA WANT NEW INTERNATIONAL
SUGAR AGREEMENT IN WHICH SOME TYPE OF PRICE GUARANTEES
WOULD BE INCLUDED. ALDUNATE STATED THIS WOULD BE
TO ADVANTAGE OF BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS.
STEDMAN

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